



# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

April 10, 2015



Indianapolis, IN (April 8, 2014) – The Indianapolis Department of Correction cemented its agreement with the U.S. Army Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) Program. The U.S. Army Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) Program is a strategic partnership between the US Army and a cross section of corporations, companies, and public sector agencies to reconnect America with its Army. More specifically, PaYS Partners guarantee transitioning soldiers an interview and possible employment after the Army. The signing ceremony conducted in the main auditorium of the Government Center South building included remarks from several dignitaries including the IDOC, U.S. Army and Indiana State Personnel. "This is a special day for me," stated Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. "Two and a half years in

the military prepared me for a successful career with the DOC. It's an exciting time for the IDOC. Some of the best employees come from a come from a military background."



During a special ceremony at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) members of the Kyle Snyder American Legion Post 398 dedicated a flag pole and monument. The ceremony also marked the one year charter anniversary of the post, re-named after Kyle Snyder. The Sullivan County native died along with three other soldiers in March of 2005 when a land mine exploded under their military vehicle in Afghanistan. The Army Specialist (SPC) was a member of the Indiana National Guard's 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. The incarcerated veterans sponsored a fund raising event to pay for the flag pole monument, located inside the maximum-security complex. At the end of the ceremony members of the post color guard received orders from Post Commander Lee Brown to assume their responsibility to raise and lower the colors each day at the respected time.



On April 2, 2015, the Fuller Center for Housing held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to dedicated two homes in the City of Gary. Speakers at the ceremony included David Snell, President and Co-Founder of the Fuller Center for Housing, Karen Freeman Wilson, Mayor of the City of Gary and a member of the Community Advisory Board and Superintendent Ron Neal. The project was a joint venture between local organizations and the Indiana Department of Correction. IDOC offenders from WCC and ISP provided the labor to

refurnish the homes. April 2, 2015, was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fuller Center and which has homes in 65 U.S. cities. The anniversary was particularly special because the home owners were able to move into the homes.

The Rockville Correctional Facility was recently invited to attend the Indiana State University Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Career Fair in the Hulman Memorial Student Union on the campus of ISU. RCF, along with representatives from multiple law enforcement agencies, were



on hand for the students to ask questions of in order to learn more about the field of criminology and what career options may lay ahead for them. The students were given information about job openings, internship opportunities, training requirements and benefit information. The 2015 ISU Career Fair was a success as many a promising contact was made!



Saturday afternoon's weather was the ideal weather to frolic around an open field chasing after Easter eggs, and that is exactly

what almost 65 children of 30 incarcerated fathers confined to Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) did during the facility's Family Education Department's (FED) Easter event. In preparation for the event, the fathers participating in the FED's Inside Outside Dad and Children's Visitation Center (CVC) programs decorated the recreation building in colors of spring and an Easter motif. They then decorated baskets and filled them with candy eggs, jelly beans, chocolates, and other sweet treats to give to each child who registered and attended the event. They also placed hundreds of brightly colored eggs in areas located between the chapel and education building. During the hunt, the children collected all the eggs that were lying in open areas, and uncovered all of the eggs from their places of hiding.

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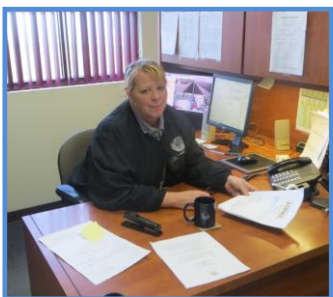
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## IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Known for "taking care of business" throughout her years of service with the IDOC, Lori Barkas does an amazing job as a Lieutenant at the Miami Correctional Facility. "The place would fall apart without her," confesses one co-worker who spoke on condition of anonymity. The married mother of two, and grandmother of four, resides in Logansport, Indiana. She was already a State employee when she started with the DOC and shared that she was first attracted to the IDOC because the Miami facility was brand new at that time.



When asked what her most memorable moment has been with the Department thus far she replied, "The first day I was in the pod alone...it was overwhelming and to be honest I was ready to walk out!" Of course she's way past that point now.

She was asked what she would do if given the chance to be Commissioner for one day "I'd meet with the Governor and discuss raising salaries and lowering insurance rates." The one thing she likes most about her job is the number and variety of positions available and says that five years from now she'll be close to retirement and will take that extra free time and spend it on the things she loves –her grandkids and her husband. Rumor has it that she makes the world's best meatballs, of course that can't be certified as official until the Commissioner signs off on it. Her advice to new employees is pretty basic, "Just be patient, it'll grow on you." And her philosophy fits the often hard to define experiences you may find in a correction facility, – "It is, what it is."

And just so you don't believe she's all work and no play Lori is....wait for it...a serial Netflix watcher! Lori, before we go I'm sure inquiring minds would like to know – What do you think of the Orange is the New Black series?

The word around Miami Correctional is that there was a huge paradigm shift when Tyanna Snyder, secretary arrived some 12 years ago. The divorced mother of one and grandmother of two is originally from Marion, IN and joined the IDOC family in part because of the great benefits. When asked 'what was the best thing about the job?' she says, "Without a doubt it's the people I work with." And as if to back up that statement she said that if she was Commissioner for a day – 'she'd give everyone a bonus'. I could live with that. Her caring for others is even expressed in her question to Commissioner Lemmon, wondering if he ever feels stressed in his job.



If you know someone considering a job with the Department tell them that Tyanna says, "Be firm, fair and consistent." Good advice for any job. Of course the real news is that Tyanna is known around the facility for her snack mix, baking and cooking and, according to the grapevine, makes a potato soup so good that "It'll make an E-squad leader stand up in the middle of the Yard and sing 'Let It Go!'." Now that's good.

Five years from now she expects to retire and do what she likes most – spending time with family and friends. For Tyanna every day is memorable in some way, primarily due to the folks she works with. Her philosophy is to be kinder than necessary and honest.

Finally, it should be no surprise to anyone that the fun fact about this woman is loves to cut the rug, waltz, twist, conga, shake her booty, get on down, get on up, boot scoot boogie....in simple terms, the woman loves to dance! Enjoy your weekend everyone!

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